

**GASTROENTEROLOGY—Volume II, Second Edition—**Henry L. Bockus, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine; and Present and Former Colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine and School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1964. 1,241 pages, \$28.00.

Volume II of the second edition of Bockus' "Gastroenterology" covers the small intestine, disorders of absorption and nutrition and anemia of gastrointestinal disorders, the colon and diseases of the peritoneum, mesentery, and omentum. Composed largely by pupils of Bockus the volume brings up to date the clinical discussion of diseases and disorders of these sections of the gastrointestinal tract. Of particular interest are the considerations of some of the modern techniques of investigating diseases of the small bowel such as biopsy, intubation, tests of absorption and malabsorption and lymphangiography. There are extensive and excellent discussions of the clinical phases of such commonly recognized entities as regional enteritis, intestinal obstruction (as viewed by the internist), chronic ulcerative colitis and benign and malignant tumors of the small and large intestine. Along with these are excellent chapters on "Functional Disorders of the Colon" including the diagnosis and management of constipation and on "The Malabsorption Syndromes." The discussions of protein losing enteropathies, Zollinger-Ellison syndrome and familial recurring polyserositis will bring the reader up to date on these recently recognized syndromes.

As in the case of Volume I the text has been prepared primarily for practicing physicians but surgeons, radiologists and even those primarily interested in the laboratory will find much of interest and value in the discussions as presented. The references are excellent and will enable the reader to know where to expand and get further detailed information.

The stature of Bockus' textbook on gastroenterology is enhanced by the appearance of Volume II and practicing physicians and medical students will long look to it as a standard reference work on the subject.

DWIGHT L. WILBUR, M.D.

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**THE COMPLICATIONS OF MODERN MEDICAL PRACTICES—A Treatise on Iatrogenic Diseases—**David M. Spain, M.D., Clinical Professor of Pathology, State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center; Pathologist, Beth-El Hospital, Brooklyn, New York; Formerly, Director of Department of Laboratories and Research and Medical Examiner of Westchester County, New York; Formerly Associate Professor of Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N.Y., 1963. 342 pages, \$12.75.

The magnitude of the field of iatrogenic disease is illustrated by the fact that the number of articles on the subject has doubled during the past ten years. With the exception of surgical excision, almost all types of specific treatment of cancer are also capable of inducing cancer under appropriate conditions. The antimicrobial agents can even, while curing infection, provide the opportunity for new infections to develop. Corticosteroids may precipitate new manifestations of the various diseases that are used to alleviate.

The hazards of practicing medicine in the present day are such that the contents of *The Complications of Modern Medical Practices* must be in our awareness constantly. Dr. Spain has done a great service to doctors by encompassing as much as he has between the covers of a single book. At the same time he confronts us with a choice akin to that of Hamlet: "To treat or not to treat: that is the question."

Another paraphrase from Hamlet seems appropriate as the author himself discusses this book. He states that "it is

not intended to support or encourage any concept of therapeutic nihilism. It is also not intended as an encyclopedia of drug reactions. It is certainly not intended as a compilation of mistakes, accidents or errors in judgment. Finally, it is not concerned with the abuses of self-medications." This reviewer thinks the author doth protest too much. What is it about? "One of the purposes is to present a conceptual view of the broad spectrum of complications that result from the use of acceptable diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. In this sense, it is hoped that the actual and potential good of these powerful modern medical weapons currently available will be enhanced by increasing the physician's awareness of the many dangers, pitfalls and complications inherent in this arsenal."

Allowing for the differences in the critique of a pathologist versus that of a biologist, one may compare Dr. Spain's book with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. They both tell of the dangers created by the use of man-made cures—in the one case dealing with the tremendous harmful potential of agricultural chemicals, in the other with the myriad large and small complications which the therapist himself may produce. No matter how promising or how carefully conceived, the chance of a reaction is always present.

While giving this book general praise, the reviewer notes that proofreading errors are fairly numerous and that some subjects are skipped over lightly. For example, the only reference to atabrine is the renal tubular damage which it may cause, similar to mercury toxicity.

Dr. Spain poses one moral beyond the obvious ones, which all of us would do well to observe: Whenever possible the diagnosis should be made first; only then, and after the natural history of the disease condition is considered in all its possible aspects, are the more powerful agents of treatment justified.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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**GENETICS TODAY—Volume I, Abstracts—Proceedings of the XI International Congress of Genetics, The Hague, The Netherlands, September 1963—**Edited by S. J. Geerts, in collaboration with J. H. F. V. Abeelen, G. J. P. A. Anders, G. A. Van Arkel, J. A. Beardmore, F. Bianchi, J. M. Van Brink, H. J. Gloor, W. K. Hirschfeld, P. H. W. Van Der Kroon, J. H. Van De Pol, R. Prakken, F. H. Sobels, C. Stumm, J. H. Van Der Veen. A. Pergamon Press Book distributed by The Macmillan Company, New York, pursuant to a special arrangement with Pergamon Press Limited, 1963. 332 pages, \$15.00.

This volume, one of three covering the latest International Congress of Genetics, contains the abstracts of contributed papers, demonstrations and films presented at the conference. The usefulness of the book for the average American reader has been increased by using English throughout. A wide range of topics concerned with many different organisms is covered in the abstracts which have been assembled into 18 sections. This breakdown into areas of special interest is most helpful because a subject index is not included, although an author index is presented at the end of the book. Out of a total of 885 abstracts only 147 are concerned with man. However, these have been made more readily available by collecting them into three sections entitled: Human Genetics (84); Human Cytogenetics (47); and Dermatoglyphics (16). Although only a small proportion is directly concerned with clinical medicine, the reader with an interest in human genetics is presented with a brief summary of worldwide activity in the rapidly expanding areas of genetical research in man. There is considerable variation in the information content of the abstracts and only a few give pertinent references. However, many of these abstracts have already been expanded into full length papers and published in various appropriate journals. The great diversity of subjects in the Human Genetics section is

reflected in the following areas of interest covered in the abstracts: Evolution, genetic polymorphisms, sperm preservation, sex ratio, genetic linkage, longevity, teratology, mental deficiency, deafness, neoplasia, immunology and new clinical syndromes. Although the Human Cytogenetics section contains fewer abstracts, there is also a considerable variety of interests presented: Chromosomes in evolution, meiotic chromosomes, pachytene chromosomes, chromosome distribution in the metaphase plate, DNA content of cells, autoradiography, effect of various agents (radiation, virus, heat shock, antimetabolites) on chromosomes, immunological properties of lymphocytes and association of chromosome anomalies with clinical syndromes. The renewed interest in dermatoglyphics (fingerprint studies) can probably be attributed to alterations which can be correlated with chromosome anomalies and possibly other genetic diseases. The abstracts in this section pursue this area further and cover techniques and population studies as well.

ROBERT S. SPARKES, M.D.

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**THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT 1964**—Coordinating Editor: Sarah R. Gustafson, Ph.D., Director, Department of Medical Literature, Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., Nutley, New Jersey; and Consulting Editor: David Baird Coursin, M.D., F.A.A.P., Director of Research, Research Institute, St. Joseph's Hospital, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1964. 160 pages, \$4.50.

This slim volume is the second of a series prepared by Drs. Sarah Gustafson and David Coursin. In addition to being sold, these volumes are widely distributed among physicians by the sales representatives of Hoffman-La Roche.

The editors have selected the fields in which the greatest advances have occurred. Their opening chapter, "Chromosomal Errors in Disease," reviews developments of the past few years with respect to chromosome culture and analysis and ends with a brief note on genetic counseling. Other chapters deal with gastrointestinal disorders, mental and emotional disorders, convulsive seizures, a variety of urinary tract diseases and collagen diseases. A chapter on viruses and vaccines covers the present status of oral poliomyelitis and measles vaccines, and the progress in some respiratory diseases, rubella and trachoma.

This little book can be perused quickly and provides the busy pediatrician with a rapid although rather superficial review of these topics. For those who wish to delve into the subject further, ample references are provided. It is regrettable, however, that many of the references are from medical news media (*Medical Tribune* or *Medical World News*) or from papers or scientific exhibits from various meetings where the source is not readily available.

MOSES GROSSMAN, M.D.

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**FUNDAMENTALS OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY—A Text-book of Ear, Nose and Throat Disease—Fourth Edition, Illustrated**—Lawrence R. Boies, M.A., M.D., Professor of Otolaryngology, Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology; Jerome A. Hilger, M.D., M.S., Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology; and Robert E. Priest, M.D., M.S., Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology, all of the University of Minnesota Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1964. 553 pages, \$8.50.

The fourth edition of *Fundamentals of Otolaryngology* by Boies, Hilger and Priest is a revised version of the third edition of Boies' book by the same name. The other authors, who were important contributors to the previous editions, have deservedly been elevated to higher status.

Since publication of the first edition of this text, it has generally been regarded as one of the outstanding texts for the teaching of otolaryngology to undergraduate medical students. The fourth edition contains a large number of re-

visions in the text, illustrations and bibliography which do not alter the basic structure or content of the work, but enhance its desirability for student use. The book is highly recommended as being concise, comprehensive, well-organized, readable, and authoritative.

CHARLES P. LEBOW, M.D.

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**OCULAR AND ADNEXAL TUMORS**—New and Controversial Aspects—Symposium sponsored by Department of Ophthalmology, Baylor University College of Medicine. Milton Boniuk, M.D., Editor, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief, Sections of Ophthalmic Pathology and Ocular Oncology, Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1964. 511 pages, with 363 figures and 4 color plates, \$25.00.

The sub-title of this book "New and Controversial Aspects" of the subject "Ocular and Adnexal Tumors" is very apropos.

The spirited discussion at the end of each section constitutes a rich and rewarding insight into different viewpoints governing management problems. The initial moderator, Dr. Maumenee, sets the pace by purposely bringing out divergent views. The following quote (page 360) typifies the discussion: "I think this is a most interesting discussion, and it's being carried on by people of great authority in this field. Therefore, when this work is published, it will attract a great deal of attention by ophthalmologists throughout the country and the world. I must say, because I have slightly different feelings about some of the material that has been presented, that I would like to present very briefly the other side of the case."

The color photographs are superb, as are the very numerous black and white illustrations and photographs. One has the feeling of actually being present at the symposium and has an opportunity to review the slides and discussion.

This text updates the subject matter covered in a magnificent fashion. It is to be highly recommended for ophthalmologists and pathologists.

ARTHUR JAMPOLSKY, M.D.

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**PRACTICAL HAEMATOLOGY—Third Edition**—J. V. Dacie, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), Professor of Haematology, Postgraduate Medical School of London; and S. M. Lewis, B.Sc., M.D. (Cape Town), D.C.P. (Lond.), Lecturer in Haematology, Postgraduate Medical School of London. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N.Y., 1964. 435 pages, \$7.50.

The authors state their aim is "to present as fully but as concisely as we can the whole range of laboratory work which may at the present time have to be undertaken in the investigation of a patient suffering from a blood disease," and have done it admirably. This is a book concerning itself primarily with laboratory hematology, and all aspects are covered including a new chapter on radioisotopes. Laboratory methods are detailed and the longest chapter deals with the investigation of hemolytic anemias, a subject with which Doctor Dacie's name has long been associated. Lengthy treatment is given to blood groups and transfusions, also to the investigation of hemorrhagic disorders. The authors apologize for their treatment of morphologic hematology, but the few pages of description and the photomicrographs of red cell abnormalities are worth the price of the book. There is little on bone marrow morphology but the section on bone marrow examination otherwise is excellent. This book will be of most value to hematologists, and laboratory workers in clinical and investigative hematology but of value to the internist and other physicians for an understanding of the laboratory aspects of hematology. It is highly recommended.

WILLIAM F. LUTTGENS, M.D.